

Modus-Modi-Modality (*European University Cyprus+IMS Regional Association for the Study of Music of the Balkans*)

section:

Art Music in the Balkans

Opera and cultural interchanges in the Balkans

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Between East and West: Zagreb on the Operatic Crossroads in 1860s

Summary

During 1860s, Zagreb did not have its steady opera ensemble, although its preparatory stage was already in existence within the drama department of the National Theatre, when operettas were performed by a small theatre orchestra. However, the National Theatre as institution existed since 1861, and the theatre building, erected in 1834, was continuously housing opera companies from abroad, dominantly within the Habsburg and later (since 1867) Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The paper will present a brief scheme of the theatre organisation as well as various foreign companies, coming from Hungarian, Austrian and Italian towns, their repertoire (mostly German, Italian and Hungarian pieces) and reception as reflected in Zagreb German and Croatian press. It will also point at some works, created by composers of Croatian origins that were presented in Zagreb during that period. The parallel life of national and international musical stage works in Zagreb will be also introspected.